

# Chaos as Art principle - Reason for Composition Imbalance

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## Abstract

*Art is a human activity, product or idea of that activity associated with the senses, emotions and intellect. Art is inherent in humans making them separate and different from the other living beings. This conception of art as an autonomous activity is as a product of artists who are looking for beauty, dates back to ancient times. The simplest definition of the term art is that it is a human creativity. Although today the term art commonly involves visual art, the concept of what art is has constantly changed over the centuries. Perhaps the most consistent definition is the most general one - the notion that art refers to all creative and artistic actions of man. As a product of visual arts, the artist creates a composition that is a work of art. Composition means combining elements and principles in making a creation. The principles of good design are tools that the artist uses to create an effective composition. Whether a design is weak or strong depends on the knowledge of the artist designer for principles, and his ability to apply them. Based on the layout, there may be several types of composition. But when the elements do not have a proper arrangement, it is a chaotic composition.*

**Key word:** balance, chaos, art, composition, contrast

## 1 Introduction

The composition is a set, assembly of parts into a whole artistic development of an idea in accordance with the requirements of materials and resources in a particular kind of expression.

In music composition, means creating and composing a piece of music. Composition in painting work, means there are several elements in a unified whole. In non-figurative art, the composition constitutes a relationship of form, color and space, and in technique and technology, composition of different alloys that create a compact mass. In everyday practice, the composition is composed of parts that make up a whole.

Harmony of the parts that make up a whole in the nature has long been studied. Preserved artefacts from Paleolithic and Neolithic are extremely well-designed forms of tool. So today we talk about composition culture as a level of understanding and ways of setting something against someone.

The underlying meaning of a composition can be seen by how much and how the elements of composition exceed the randomness and to what extent the realized relationship suggests recognizable personal style and features of the time in which it emerged. Although today the term



Figure 1. Composition - Fernand Leger

composition indicates different phenomena and situations (ex., composition of certain spices), it always suggests the meaning of the result achieved with this composition.

When creating a composition with multiple elements which should create a whole, it is difficult to achieve perfect harmony and a good composition, but it is also hard and maybe even harder when creating a composition with a small number of elements. In contemporary art is the minimal art that deals with such phenomena (art of minimal expression).

As a rule, every composition creation requires two or more elements, so that some relation is established between those elements and the space. If, however, the composition consists of only one element, then the composition consists of this sole element and the space itself. The purpose of the composition is satisfied if a relation is established of something against someone, and the composer freely elects the means and ways through which he or she expresses them.

In visual art, composition means combining elements of art and principles in creating a work of art or visual arts. When creating a work of art, the artist makes more several sketches that help him show his own idea in a suitable way.

There are a vast number of opportunities to create a composition. Proper composition can do a lot in producing a work of art, which is not only meant to represent a picture, but a work of art. So, any art slowly comes to the point where, thanks to its own assets, it becomes able to express what can best be expressed.

A composition is a harmonious and orderly arrangement, thoughtfully arranged order of visual elements - elements of composition within a space and shape, in which unity prevails of techniques, materials, and ideas.

Composition means arrangement of masses, lines, shapes, colors and other elements with interrelations of repetition, harmony and contrast, symmetry and asymmetry in different rhythms etc.

The main objective of every composition is for the artist to express his idea more efficiently. Synthesis means unity, and unity is what makes creation leave strong impression even at first contact with the observer. Given that the first and strongest impression is created by the elements that act directly and instantly upon the feelings of the observer, the artist should seek his expression to flow more through them than through thematic content.

After all, the thematic content observer reads on intellectual way and gradually afterwards. The principles of good design tools that, the artist used to create an effective composition or design. The difference between weak and strong design is the result of knowing the artist for the design principles and his ability to apply.



Figure 2. Composition - Robert Delaunay

After all, the thematic content is what the observer reads in an intellectual way and gradually afterwards.

The principles of good design are tools that the artist uses to create an effective composition or design. The difference between a weak and strong design is the result of the artist's knowledge of the designer principles and his ability to apply them.

Basically, every design is arranged by the design elements of the application designer principles. Taking into account all these components, a composition, appearance or design is created that should be pleasing to look at. Upon average sensibility, ordinary objects exert superficial effect, while the ones we look at for the first-time cause impression. The human soul reacts when it is touched in its most sensitive spot.

We know that it is skeleton of the human body that is the structure that supports all the muscles and other parts of the body, it is the beams in engineering that support the whole building and in arts it is the composition that unites all elements in itself. The canvas, line, shape, tone, color or other visual element can be put in many places, but the question is where?

This issue becomes resolved by the arts composition itself. What we see at the composition is an integral part of it. As the initial idea of the artist gets born, as more or less clear vision, so starts the process of creating the artistic work. Even in this first phase, the basic thematic relations are present. The unnecessary gets marked, analyzed and removed.

The area that limits the artist is the physical plane in two dimensions, having only length and width. Such a surface without depth is called the work space, the design-field or format. Before starting the realization, the artist needs to decide how to organize the unity of format and its form. The format is defined by the horizontal and vertical margins. By determining the format and defining the theme, the realization begins of the very idea.

Harmonious and pleasant relationship of elements is achieved by rules for their proper arrangement:

- Geometric center
- Optical Center and
- Rule of thirds, etc.

The format is determined by its final four vertices, and its fifth vertex, the center, is determined as the invisible point located at the intersection of the diagonals of the format or the intersection of



Figure 3.Composition

the lines that divide the format into two equal parts. The central arrangement of this type should direct the observer's eye from the peripheral parts towards the center. By placing the object in the center, the observer will not be motivated to study the rest of the image.

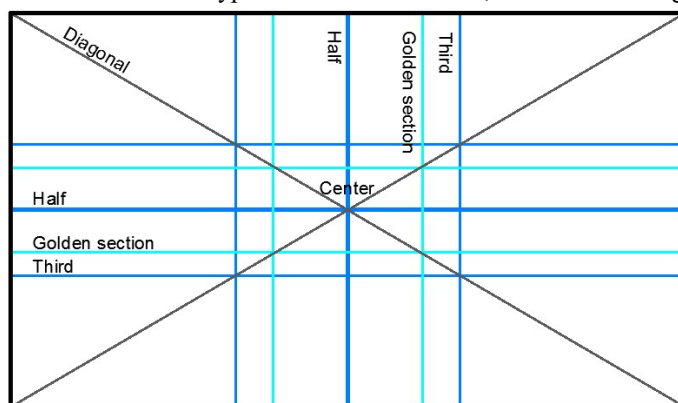
The optical center represents the place where the lines intersect of the golden-intersection, vertical and horizontal. The shape placed in the optical center acts dominantly while the composition, simple and unique.

The rule of thirds is often used with two horizontal and two vertical lines dividing the format into nine equal parts, and their intersection receives four important points which should accommodate four main items of the composition. The theory says that if the object of interest is placed at the four points, or along the imaginary lines, the composition becomes balanced, and the human eye naturally glides over it.

Perception of space, forms of elements that will make up the composition and setting are the most important segments in forming the composition. It is these features that represent the skillfulness of creating a good composition. The elements of the composition are classified according to form and direction.

By the time of the Renaissance, painters have always laid their elements in the center. But later they started to perceive and to use some new elements. The lines are perhaps the most important element of the composition. When used effectively, they visually guide us through the "scene".

There are three types of lines: horizontal, vertical and diagonal, and each creates a different



dose of energy and movement in the composition, and hence different effects.

The horizontal lines give steadiness, stability and calm. The composition receives an idyllic effect. The setup of the horizon in the composition has three positions: in the middle (middle cut), which divides the composition into two equal parts horizontally.

Centrally positioned horizon is commonly avoided in theory,

but it is a very powerful tool especially when it comes to displaying symmetry (eg reflection). The symmetry is displayed horizontally, while vertical asymmetry.

The second position of the horizon is (low cut), it is positioned on the lower third of the composition. In this position, the action takes place in the upper two thirds of the frame. The last position of the horizon is (high cut), the upper third of the composition. This horizon is used when the action happens in the lower two-thirds. Vertical lines add movement and energy of the composition, which becomes much more powerful and expressive.

Diagonal lines produce the most energy and movement than any other type of line. Diagonals get us directly into the scene much more aggressively, creating a visual tension as a final result of the perception. Diagonal lines can imply a distortion of perspective.

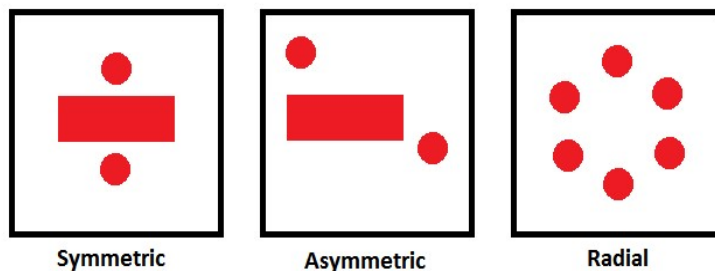
### Balance as an artistic principle

Balance or equilibrium is an art principle which governs the arrangement of elements in the whole. One of the wishes of artists is creating a balanced composition.

Balance does not only apply to the composition, but to the selected motifs, their proportion, color, contrast and many other factors as well. Only when a composition is balanced, it is stable

and appears properly. The three common principles of composition in the balance are: symmetry, asymmetry and radially. In art, symmetry generally conveys a sense of harmonious or aesthetically pleasing proportionality and balance, and it reflects beauty or perfection.

Symmetrical balance is most stable in a visual sense. Symmetry is achieved when both sides of the artwork are almost the same on the horizontal or vertical axis of the composition. In a symmetrical way, we build symmetric equilibrium with color, texture, line, form, in a way that we seek visual balance of the right and left half of creation. The converse of symmetry is asymmetry.



Symmetric

Asymmetric

Radial

The purpose of the asymmetrical balance is the same, to make contents both on the left-hand and right-hand side equal in value to the line, tone, color, texture, size and shape, while their setting is different on both sides. Balance in

the composition is achieved by a simple combination of the proper shapes, colors, light, darkness that complement one another so that the composition is balanced.

So, a composition emerges with balanced sense of peace, calm repetition and harmonic division of all elements. If we desire to achieve a mysterious, disturbing, weird feeling, imbalance can be more efficient than the balance in the composition.

It can be obtained by combining different forms, shapes, contrasts, or by placing items with no order or rule. In fact, the elements are "scattered" chaotically. It is defined as the compositional chaos resulting in imbalance.

### **Chaos as permanent instability**

The term "chaos" in the old view of the world refers to the notion of an endless source of future events. Hesiod considered it as an early content of the world in a state of uncertainty. Later Aristotle defined chaos as "free space", but since then dominates the idea of order and determination, and chaos is perceived confusion and mess.

Between 17th to the 18th century, the adjective "chaotic" appeared. Development of chaos theory created a new perspective to better understand the chaos and its complex processes. The theory of chaos is one of the most fascinating, most influential and most promising scientific and cultural paradigms in the last fifty years. Although the activities in this area are no longer covered by the media as ten years ago, opinions of the importance of this type of research "chaos" do not differ.

Chaos exists everywhere in nature, sometimes in heart rate. Under certain circumstances, the heart can beat chaotically. Heart beats are smooth and regular, but sometimes it happens that it does not work as it should and then longer and shorter intervals appear between heart beats. In more extreme cases, heart rhythm becomes irregular. Little change in the timing of a heartbeat causes major changes in what follows.

Heart rate becomes chaotic and could threaten survival. This is a good example of transition from proper motion to chaos as a result to changed conditions. Chaos is the opposite of geometrical order. Geometrical order expresses harmony, seriousness, while chaos gives a special dimension to the composition. The balance between them is always needed and necessary, because if chaos prevails in the composition, it leads imbalance.

Chaos is opposite of geometric order, it is represented by forms and relations that are complex and difficult to describe by classical mathematics. From the perspective of spatial perception, two

graphic compositions are given. The average density is the same in both compositions. In the first picture, the correct order of points forms a circular area, and the background is chaotic, and in the second picture it is opposite, the background is in proper arrangement of dots and circular area is a chaotic set of points.

This example enables us to conclude that the chaos is interference in the geometric order which represents interference in chaos. They are tightly linked together. Chaos is permanent instability. Instability is part of our own environment and culture. Chaotic movement contrasts with the regularities that we could see in the universe on a broader scale.

People have always wondered about the order of the seasons, the way the night changes into day and the precision how, it seems to us, the stars and planets move across the sky. All these celestial phenomena have origins in the regularity of movement of the Earth and other planets, which more than 300 years ago were explained by Isaac Newton in his laws of motion and theory of gravity.

Under these laws, the current positions and velocities of the Sun and planets are determined by the positions and velocities of all past and future times. Newton's laws of motion are classic examples of determinism, which stipulates that future is solely determined by the past. When scientists look for this kind of order in the universe they usually find it. But as we know, the order is not universal; we need to understand disorder too.



Pierre Simon de Laplace, born in Normandy, is one of the first scientists who studied the disorder. Pierre completely believed and relied on Newton's views of the cosmos, but is credited with establishing the theory of disorder, or probability, which describes how many phenomena appear to relate in a typical way even when the individual effects are unpredictable.

Chaos appears in all scientific disciplines. Biologists find chaos in changing populations of insects and birds, in the metabolism of the cells and the spread of impulses along our nerves. Physicists find chaos in the movement of electrons in atoms and molecules and atoms in the gas, and the theory of particles.

Even engineers have to consider chaos as it can disable electrical circuits. It can lead to loss of particles of an accelerator or plasma, or it can overturn a ship at seas. The chaos comes from the reaction in the system of opposite effects; the "feedback" creates complex dynamics in simple systems. Artists find chaos in the sloppiness of composition elements.

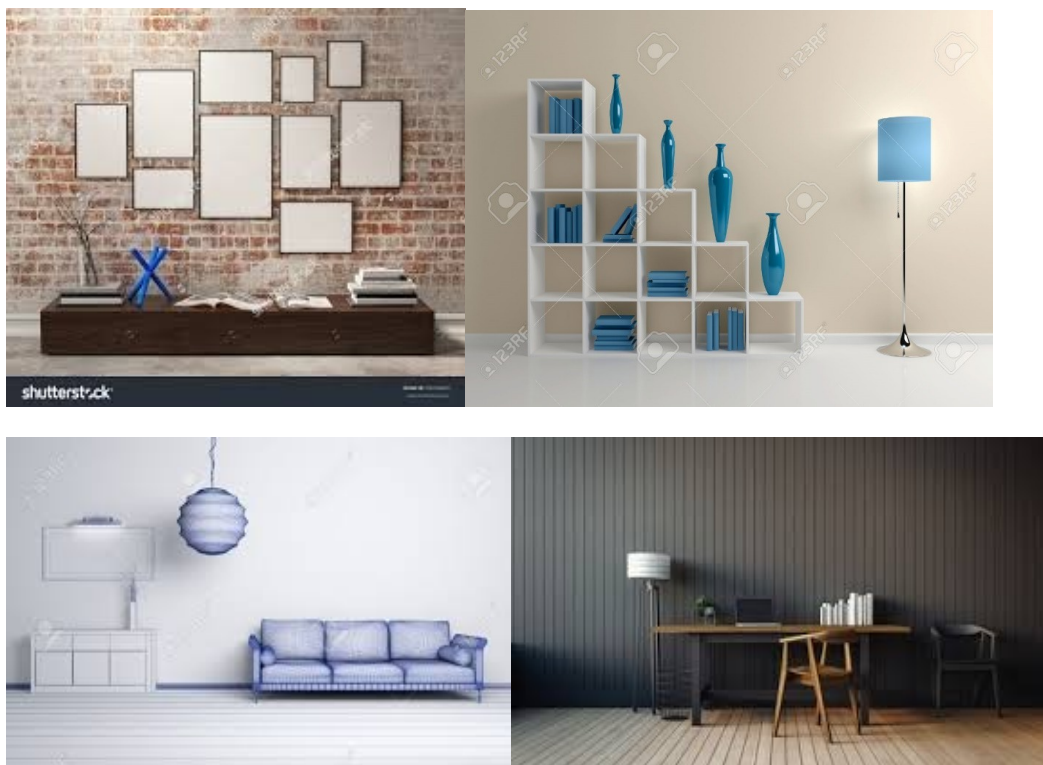
Over the last thirty years, Chaos has been one of the most exciting areas in science and one of the most interesting. It is still young and we do not know to what extent it will change our view of the world. It is certain that theory of chaos underlies the cross-disciplinary nature of marginal research. Chaos leads to the creation of kitsch. This idea gets widely used in the XIX century and comes from the German word (kitchen), which means to do something, and it looks seemingly worthwhile, too crowded and decorative.

It can be said about the concept of kitsch to be an expression of bad taste, where certain artistic



values are replaced by superficial impressions of art, where the artistic values leave no trace. In the new era kitsch is explained in detail by extensive literature and authors all agree on one thing: the kitsch is the person itself. Kitsch today is a pervasive reality in all walks of life, so today kitsch can be recognized everywhere where there are humans.

When creating compositions, chaos can lead to the creation of kitsch in all areas of design. The interior design kitsch occurs with improperly combining shapes, colors, materials and etc. The designer can use any shape to express himself. However, this form should be consistent with the space and other items in it. The contrast can have infinite power. But you have to stay at the same moral level.



*Figure 4. Composition interior*

#### **Recommendation for removing chaos from a composition**

1. Aims and the ideas in creating a composition.
2. Following certain rules to create a composition.
3. Beauty emerges from the inner necessity of the soul. Beautiful things have inner beauty.

#### **Conclusion**

Before starting of any artwork, the artist or designer should keep in mind that each composition starts with an idea. If designer principles are to be used effectively and correctly, it is necessary for the artists to have a particular idea or goal. Without a goal, no matter what principles have been applied, the result will be an uninteresting work of art.

Having an idea, we can create a beautiful composition even if we forget the principles or apply them intuitively. Every artist should aim to create a composition that is unique and interesting to watch. When the designer has a good idea, the effective application of designer principles will aim to achieve unity of the artwork. Whether designers apply the principles consciously or unconsciously, unity should be the goal of every artist.

Harmonization of the whole canvas is what realizes artwork. There is no doubt that the eye and mind perceive balanced composition much more easily. But the artist does not always create what the mind requires.

Sometimes elements are combined to create an imbalance in the composition accompanied by chaos and in rare cases when chaos affects composition positively. In that sense, only works that possess aesthetic values are considered to be art, regardless of how they are performed and their artistic technique.

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